

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Office of the State Fire Marshal

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For Immediate Release

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Fireworks Season Approaching

Chief Lowell Porter announced today that once again the fireworks season rapidly approaches. In an effort to make the season as safe as possible for all, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has developed a companion program titled "Celebrate Legally" to the widely used "Celebrate Safely" fireworks safety education program.

While the "Celebrate Safely" program carries a message of personal responsibility for those who will be discharging fireworks, the "Celebrate Legally" program is targeted to assist fire and police agencies in the enforcement of state and local fireworks laws, particularly targeting the use of illegal fireworks.

The "Celebrate Legally" program was developed with input and assistance from local law enforcement and fire officials and is being made available to all fire and police agencies across the state.

The "Celebrate Legally" package includes the following materials:

1. A "Fireworks Retail Stand Facts Sheet."
2. A "Fireworks Violation Fact Sheet."
3. A "Fireworks Transportation Fact Sheet" from the Washington State Patrol.
4. A "Model Agency Operations Procedure."
5. An illegal explosive device and illegal fireworks identification poster.
6. A "Model Plan" developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in cooperation with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Washington State Association of Fire Marshals, and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, to assist in the safe handling, seizure, and storage of illegal fireworks and explosive devices.

As public officials, we should encourage our citizens to "Celebrate Safely," but as fire and law enforcement officials, it is our job to require our citizens to "Celebrate Legally." Both the "Celebrate Legally" and the "Celebrate Safely" programs are available digitally at www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/firemars.htm. For further information on fireworks, please contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Larry Glenn at (360) 570-3133.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on "State Fire Marshal."

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